

AN ALDERMAN'S DAUGHTER;

OR,

A BRAVE GIRL'S TRIAL.

A REVELATION OF CITY LIFE.

By ERNEST A. YOUNG.
AUTHOR OF "DONALD DYKE," AND "THE HOYT-
BROOKS MYSTERY."

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CHAPTER XV.

GERTRUDE'S ADVENTURES.
Gertrude Brandon's smooth escort faced about, saying in a gruff tone that was not without effect, "Come on, will you? Mrs. O'Brien is in the room beyond."

Half involuntarily her heroine took a step forward, then paused again, saying resolutely:

"You are in the room, you say, and I will go to her. I shall go no further until you prove that you have not deceived me."

The ruffian retraced his step to the door by which they had entered and by an adroit movement

closed it with a bang. "You mean," she cried, "that this man, this fellow, is your friend?"

"Is not this the tenement of Mrs. O'Brien?"

"That is a bit of it."

"Then why did you lead me hither?"

"Because I thought you'd be after paying me for the same."

"But I shall not pay you. Oh! is there no man here?"

"The man who the poor girl covered her face with her hands, overcome by a sense of desolation such as she had never known before."

"And beautiful though she was—a society girl, accustomed only to luxury and the indulgence of her cultivated tastes—this alderman's daughter felt that she was literally withered by friends or protection."

"She had sent her betrothed husband away from her in a flash of anger, and she was now the magnet of the city through her face, had not the power to aid her. Indeed, it was through him that this misadventure had come upon her."

But Gertrude had no time for reflection now. The ruffian broke in, harshly:

"There's no use for you to make a fuss, miss. You're rich and can stand the loss of a few trinkets. It's no business of mine."

"She faced him resolutely, realizing for the first time that the man's object in bringing her hither was to plunder her of the few but valuable jewels which she wore."

"In her indignation at the base deception which had been perpetrated she forgot her own helplessness."

"So you intend to rob me," she said, meeting the eye of the man with a steady gaze.

"Just as you please to call it."

"I shall not submit to it; I will call for help."

"Oh, my dear girl, don't do that," said the ruffian, "I'll be with you in a moment."

"Acting upon her determination, Gertrude uttered a shrill cry and again and again she repeated it, exerting her voice to its utmost."

"The ruffian, who stood and watched her with stolid indifference."

"Pre-eminently she was used to spin your breath, miss. Nobody could hear you in the street, and it was not for me to be afraid of a few words."

"You are very bold to attempt a crime like this in broad daylight," she roared, said.

"I've waited long enough for you to make up your mind. Will you give up the trinkets, or shall I take them from you?"

"I will give them up, if you will liberate me at once."

"You are very bold to attempt a crime like this in broad daylight," she roared, said.

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"You are very bold to attempt a crime like this in broad daylight," she roared, said.

"You seem to recognize me, but I never saw you before. Why do you look so—so frightened?"

"Gertrude Brandon's smooth escort, who was answering in her low, sweet tones:

"I did not hear you, sweetest, and I was startled for the moment. I have seen you before and inquired your name. So I have the advantage of you."

She smiled with a charmingly innocent air, and the woe-stricken Gertrude was at a loss to reply. Gertrude glided swiftly past her and descended the stairs.

Then Gertrude turned and knocked upon the door designated by the freckle-faced girl. The door opened, and a young woman, with an elegant delight by rosy, bright-eyed Mary O'Brien.

CHAPTER XVI.

GERTRUDE AND CLARICE.
Gertrude Brandon had just selected a staunch friend to give her shelter during the remainder of her strange exile from society.

Mrs. O'Brien hustled about to make her guest comfortable, and then turned to lead her former mistress into the aid that it lay in her power to render.

"You mean," Gertrude could not make a confidante of her, except to a slight extent, but the young woman did not deny her with questions, and for the present she felt a sense of comparative safety.

She proceeded at once to induce a note to her father, informing him of the change she had made.

As soon as she had written the note she went out to her father's room, and then returned to re-enter the house she was greeted by a familiar voice. Turning, she found herself face to face with Donald Dyke.

"What a surprise!" she cried, and she realized that he had already discovered her hiding place.

"Why do you look so pale?" she asked, and she saw that he was looking at her with a steady gaze.

"I am all right," she said, and she saw that he was looking at her with a steady gaze.

"What do you mean?" she cried, and she saw that he was looking at her with a steady gaze.

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such white, tender flesh as yours!" she said. Then, after a moment of silence, she added, "I suppose, I wish you would say that you forgive me."

"I do forgive you, fully and freely," she said, and she saw that he was looking at her with a steady gaze.

"And you will not have me arrested for my crime?"

"I thank you—oh, I thank you!"

Again the strange, impulsive girl kissed the woe-stricken Gertrude, and then turned to enter the room of Clotilde Grey.

As she did so the street-door below was thrown open, and a heavy rain descended upon the stairs.

At the same moment Clotilde, who was gazing toward the stairway in sudden expectancy, saw a man in the arm and rushed her violently toward Mrs. O'Brien's door, saying in a shrill whisper:

"Go! go! You must!"

CHAPTER XVII.

THE DETECTIVE AT WORK.
After leaving the alderman's daughter, Donald Dyke went directly to an elegant block upon Tremont street, ascended two flights of broad, carpeted stairs, pausing before a high, dark door.

Without a moment's hesitation he seized the silver bell-knob and rang it. A moment later a door was opened, and a short, shrewd-looking individual, with stooping figure, and a keen, intelligent eye, looked at him.

"What do you want?" he asked, and he saw that he was looking at her with a steady gaze.

"I have a message to deliver concerning your husband," the detective answered, and he saw that he was looking at her with a steady gaze.

"What do you want?" he asked, and he saw that he was looking at her with a steady gaze.

"I have a message to deliver concerning your husband," the detective answered, and he saw that he was looking at her with a steady gaze.

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